

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:**

The invention also encompasses PROPHO variants. A preferred PROPHO variant is one having at least 80%, and more preferably 90%, amino acid sequence identity to the PROPHO amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:1) and which retains the biological, immunological or other functional characteristics of the activity of [[CARIN]] PROPHO.